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## **TESTIMONY RE: S.B. 5255 (RAISED) AN CONCERNING WATERSHED LAND**

### **Public Health Committee Hearing**

February 11, 2009

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. I am Dr. Mary Jane Williams, current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses' Association, and professor of Nursing at the University of Hartford. I have practiced nursing for over 40 years and have been educating nurses in Connecticut for 35 years. I am providing testimony in support of S.B. 5255 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WATERSHED LAND.

Connecticut Nurses' Association supports this bill for the following reasons:

- More than one-quarter million acres of our watershed land in Connecticut is privately owned – undeveloped forestland that is the purifier for our streams, rivers and reservoirs.
- If this land is developed it can no longer protect our rivers and streams, which help to purify our drinking water.
- The proposed bill would support the Department of Public Health in maintaining our water supply. The development of this process will help to support the program previously legislated effectively.
- This proposed bill will begin the process of protecting a scarce resource for the state, as only 1% of all water is drinkable.

Thank you and we encourage the members of the committee to support this legislation.